



# IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

DIRK KEMPTHORNE – Governor  
KARL B. KURTZ – Director

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
450 West State Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0036  
PHONE 208-334-5625  
FAX 208-334-5926

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 16, 2006

Tom Shanahan  
(208) 334-0668

### **KEMPTHORNE AWARD FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORK GOES TO SEN. JOE STEGNER**

Sen. Joe Stegner, R-Lewiston, will receive the third annual Patricia Kempthorne Award on Tuesday, Feb. 21, during a Statehouse ceremony in Boise for his outstanding work in substance abuse prevention and treatment.

The award, to be presented by Idaho's First Lady, is from the Idaho State Substance Abuse Executive Council and given each year to a public official who makes a difference in fighting drug and alcohol abuse.

It is the highlight of an awareness effort at the Capitol that also will present community achievement awards to six other Idahoans for their work in substance abuse. In addition, the event will include 13 displays, featuring those by DrugFree Idaho, the Idaho Hispanic Commission Youth Group, and RADAR. The presentation is set for 4:30-5:30 p.m. in the Gold Room.

Stegner, a seven-year legislative veteran, is the Senate Assistant Majority Leader. He has been involved with the Idaho Association of Counties to improve state assistance programs to deliver mental health services and substance abuse treatment programs. He helped write the Access to Recovery grant that funds \$22 million to provide substance abuse treatment for Idaho residents. He now serves on the ATR alliance committee which provides ongoing oversight of the grant's implementation.

"Senator Stegner has been an outstanding advocate for the betterment of mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment services in Idaho," says First Lady Patricia Kempthorne. "His vision and dedication to these issues will have a lasting impact on the way we support and empower those in need in our state. I could not be more pleased that we will recognize this exemplary Idahoan for his work for the health and welfare of our citizens."

**(more)**

This year's event will focus on methamphetamine abuse, according to Kara Schallock, a community resource development specialist for Health and Welfare who organizes the award presentation, assisted by legislative committees from Regional Substance Abuse Authorities around the state.

"Idaho, like the nation, faces a substance abuse epidemic," she says. "We support Sen. Stegner for his contributions and work in the substance abuse field to improve the quality of life for Idahoans."

Community achievement awards will be presented to other leaders from around the state, including:

- Idaho Supreme Court Justice Daniel T. Eismann;
- Magistrate Judge Eugene Marano, Coeur d'Alene;
- Mayor Tammy de Weerd, Meridian;
- Bev Ashton, Chair, Regional Substance Abuse Authority, Twin Falls;
- Amy Slack, Chair, Regional Substance Abuse Authority, Pocatello; and
- Karen Carlson, Co-Chair, Regional Substance Abuse Authority, Idaho Falls.

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**(News Editors: For more information, contact Kara Schallock, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Boise, 208-334-6866.)**